

REMARKS

Claim 28 has been rejected under 36 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 21, 22, 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mack et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,377,700.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 28 has been rejected under 36 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 28 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem pointed out by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject matter:

Claims 32-42 were allowed. Claims 23, 24, 26, 30 and 31 were deemed to be drawn to allowable subject matter. Claim 28 was deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form and so as to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

Applicants have amended claims 23, 24, 28, 30 and 31 to place them in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the claims to which they previously depended.

Claim 26 depends from claim 24, which is now in allowable form.

It is respectfully requested that claims 23, 24, 26, 28 and 30-31 are in allowable form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 21, 22, 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mack et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,377,700.

Claims 21 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 22, 25 and 29 were amended to depend from allowable claims.

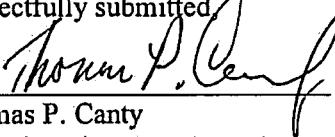
Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21, 22, 25, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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